


Akron City



January - April 2004

MAKING TRACKS

Marathoners Inspire Our Community

Park Renovation, Housing-Stock Renewal and High-Rise Rescues

INCLUDED IN THIS ISSUE:

12-month *Keep Akron Beautiful* recycling calendar and *Spotlight* — featuring Downtown Akron's newest "hot spots"



From City Hall...

We've never looked better

Happy New Year to you and your family from all of us at City Hall!

Akron has never looked better. At least, that's what historian Dr. George Knepper likes to say (and he knows more about Akron's past than anyone.) In 2003, there were a lot of people who agreed with him despite the wet spring and summer.

In October, Akron won first place in the *America In Bloom* national competition. This is a tribute to *Keep Akron Beautiful* director **Paula Davis**, city arborist **Bill Hahn**, as well as a volunteer citizens committee chaired by **Rosemary Reymann**. Together, they led a team of judges through the city to see our flower-scapes, the Towpath and Mud Run Golf Course. The judges also saw the results of our expressway beautification program—all of which helped us claim the top prize for cities nationwide with populations 100,000 to 500,000.

Also last fall, I accepted the Precedent Setter Award from the Cleveland-based *Smart Growth Education Foundation* in recognition of the city's efforts to re-build housing in Akron's core area, an effort coordinated by Planning Director **Warren Woolford**, with special recognition to **Jerry Egan**, **Warren Walfish** and the rest of the Planning Department staff.

These awards serve several purposes. They let us know how Akron is doing when compared with cities of similar size and with a similar budget. Moreover, such awards give recognition and encouragement to the outstanding people who work for the City of Akron every day.

For example, while it isn't what you'd call glamorous, winning a Silver Award from the national *Association of Metropolitan Sewerage Agencies* represents a lot of hard work at our Public Utilities Bureau.

Manager **Mike McGlinchy** gives credit for the achievement to **Randy Monteith**, who oversees Akron's pilot programs at the Wastewater Treatment Plant, and **Brian Gresser**, the plant administrator.

Akron firefighter and medic **Mark Harper** was Summit County's Firefighter of the Year, because of his work with



Children's Hospital burn unit, an honor bestowed by the *Summit County Firefighter's Association*. Firefighter/medic **Michelle Reedy** was honored by the *Akron Optimist Club* as Akron Firefighter of the Year, which recognizes her work with youth, especially cancer patients.

The *Akron Optimist Club* named **Sgt. Cynthia Christman** as its Akron police officer of the year for her work in improving community relations, and the *West Akron Board of Trade* selected Akron Police **Lt. Sylvia Trundle** for its annual Danton-Kaufman Award in recognition of her work in the Victim Assistance Program of Summit County.

The Akron-Canton section of the *American Society of Civil Engineers* recognized a member of the city's Engineering Bureau, **Genny Barth**, as Young Engineer of the Year. Genny works as a project manager in the Environmental Division.

In April, the *American Society of Landscape Architects* Ohio Chapter presented Akron its Design Award for our work on the Ohio-Erie Canal Towpath Trail. Manager of design services **Tom Long** and **Mike Teodecki** in the Engineering Bureau can be singled-out for making the towpath trail both beautiful and useful. I enjoy seeing hundreds of downtown workers walking the rubberized track during the lunch hour every day.

And our own **Bruce Ford**, who provides all the photographs for this magazine and calendar and supports all city departments with graphics and photography, won the First Foto Award, among 166 cities around the country, from the national *First Night Organization*.

This month, at the meeting of the National League of Cities I was honored to accept an award from *American City & County* magazine as Municipal Leader of the Year. It was an honor that was bestowed on a mayor who is proud of the city of Akron's 2,400 full-time and 300 seasonal employees, who constitute one of the most dedicated municipal work forces in the nation.

As I look back on 2003, I am grateful for the privilege to be of service to the people of Akron. My family and I appreciate the opportunity to serve another four-year term leading the city.

The year 2004 will bring its own challenges, but with an award-winning work force like ours, we are equipped to meet them. Hope to see you at *First Night!*

Donald L. Plouffe



Akron City

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Our Cover Photo...

...is **Bruce Ford's** view of the starting line of the first Road Runner Akron Marathon and Team Relays at the Lockheed Martin Airdock, Saturday, October 11. The international event attracted more than 2,000 runners for the inaugural run. In 2004, the second annual Marathon will be held Saturday, October 2, and will again highlight the U.S.A Track Federation's Men's marathon relay championship featuring teams from North America.

Tell us what you think by replying to editor@ci.akron.oh.us
Or share your thoughts with the mayor at mayor@ci.akron.oh.us

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Table of Contents

4 Wallhaven's Hardesty Park
An Inspired renovation



6 T.R.O.T. Akron's
Technical Rescue and
Operations Team

8 This is Akron
Roundball, marbles
and beautiful
surroundings



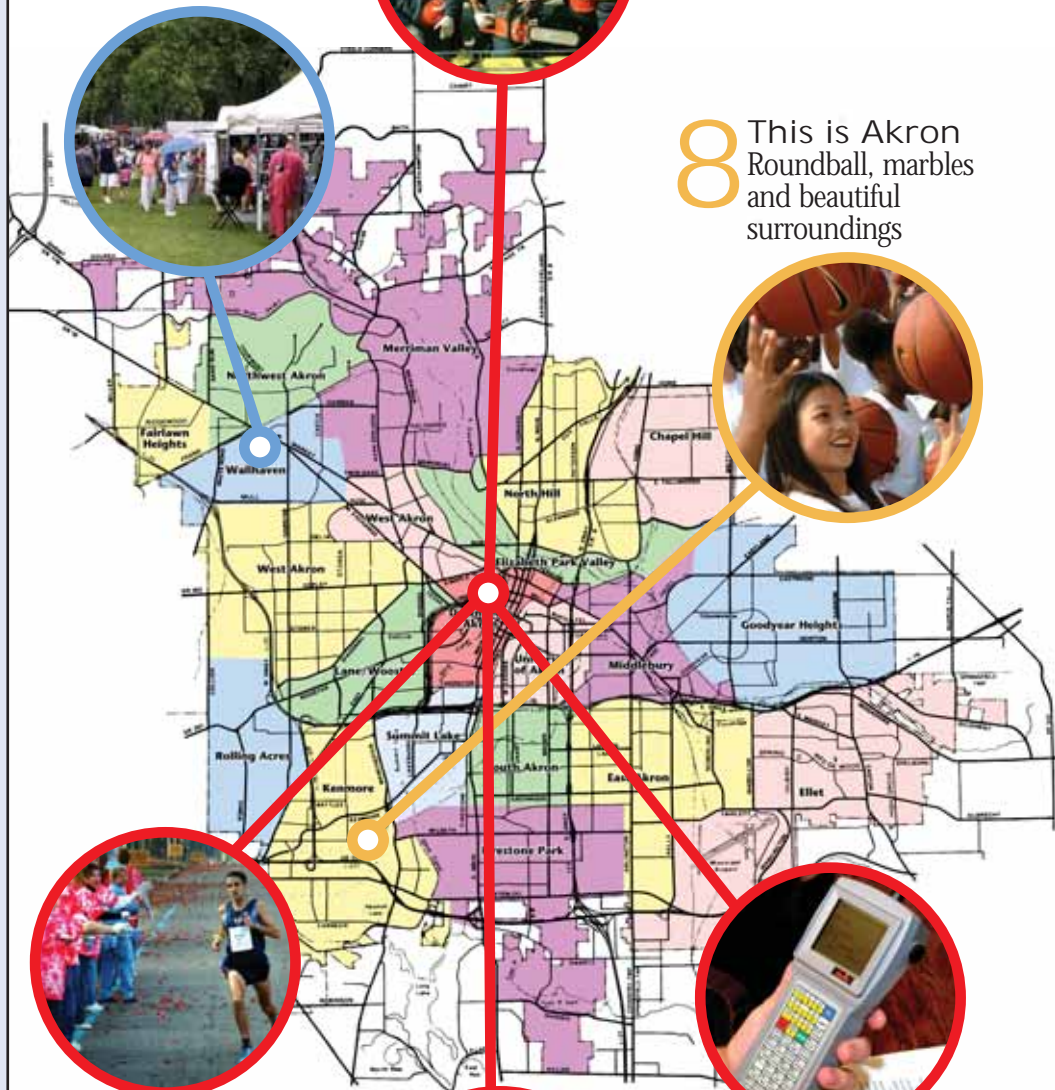
10 Akron
Marathon
A summit of
athletes



12 Giants of the Sky
Our love affair with
airships



14 Water Beater
High-tech water
gauges



Neighborhoods

Wallhaven



Inspired Friend Sparks A Renovation

By Robert Sberna

Following a visit to Europe in 1998, West Akron resident Noel Horvath returned home with an inspiration to renovate Hardesty Park.

Horvath and her husband, Michael, had been so impressed by the public parks in Paris in particular that she decided to spearhead a Hardesty Park beautification campaign. This renovation would include the installation of a walking trail, new playground equipment and landscaping.

To build support for her plan, Horvath formed a neighborhood organization—the Friends of Hardesty Park. Thanks to the efforts of that group, along with the Hardesty Park Association and city officials, the Wallhaven park has undergone a \$140,000 upgrade.

“Hardesty Park has always been nice, but I felt that it needed some improvements,” says Horvath. “For example, the park has had the same playground equipment for 40 years or so. After visiting so many lovely parks in Europe and in cities in the United States, I thought it would be nice to make enhancements to Hardesty Park’s facilities and surroundings.”

Horvath credits Ward 8 Councilman Bob Keith and city architect Bill Marras for their roles in the park’s renovation—as well as brokering a compromise between Horvath’s group and the Hardesty Park Association, which was formed by neighbors who expressed opposition to large-scale upgrades.



Wallhaven’s Hardesty Park hosts the city of Akron’s annual Arts Expo in July. Thousands of families share in the hands-on displays, enjoy a smorgasbord of food vendors, and take home beautiful art and craft items.

Thanks to the efforts of that group, along with the Hardesty Park Association and city officials, the Wallhaven park has undergone a \$140,000 upgrade.



Keith explains that objections to her improvement initiative focused on concerns that any significant upgrades would result in an influx of traffic and visitors from outside the Wallhaven neighborhood.

“When people live around a park for 20 to 30 years, they sometimes think of it as their front yard,” says Keith. “But it’s a city park, and it’s there for everyone to enjoy.”

Ultimately, says Keith, the city decided to implement several ideas that were initially proposed by Horvath and the Friends of Hardesty Park—albeit in scaled-down form.

“We’ve brought in modern, interactive playground equipment that is handicap-accessible,” he notes. The neighborhood’s

young parents, he adds, were instrumental in selecting the new equipment.

Other improvements include a walking trail and the installation of new trees and cooking grills.

“If the city budget allows, we plan to do flower plantings along the street side of the park,” says Keith. The construction of the walking trail was funded with a \$20,000 grant gifted to the Friends of Hardesty Park by the Akron Community Foundation.

“It seems that the park improvements worked out to everyone’s advantage,” says Keith. “We really tried to compromise with all the parties. I think once people see the changes, they’ll like them.”

Craftsman puts heart and sole into his work

By Robert Sberna



Dominic Olivo, owner of Don's Shoe Hospital

After 52 years of healing soles, shoe-repair professional Dominic Olivo says he and his peers have become a dying breed.

"We live in a throwaway society," says Olivo, the owner of Don's Shoe Hospital, which is located in the International Chemical Workers Union building on West Market Street. "These days, people would rather buy inexpensive shoes and throw them away when they wear out, rather than pay to have them resoled."

Roughly 10 shoe repair shops remain in Akron, says Olivo. But in the 1950s, Summit County was home to more than 250 shops.

"This industry started going downhill in the mid-1980s, when cheap foreign-made shoes began flooding the United States marketplace," he says.

Olivo explains that most shoes today are constructed with adhesives, which makes

repair work difficult.

"In the old days, shoes were made of welt construction—the soles were stitched on. The shoes could be repaired indefinitely. The looked better and they wore better."

As a 14-year-old, Olivo learned the shoe repair craft from an uncle who owned a shop in Goodyear Heights. After returning from service in the Korean War, Olivo opened a shop on West Market Street and Hawkins Avenue, which he operated for 50 years. Two years ago, he moved to his present location.

Olivo, 76, says most of his work these days involves replacing heels and repairing leather purses.

Saying he has no plans to retire, he notes: "Occasionally, a customer will bring in a well-made pair of shoes for repair. It gives me great satisfaction to break them down and make them like new again." ©

Neighborhoods

Goodyear Heights



Dan and Mary Julian before the lunch hour starts

If You Like a Homey Menu, Try Julian's

By Robert Sberna

Goodyear Heights restaurateur Dan Julian has a simple explanation for his loyal customer base.

"We give very good quality with good service in a clean environment," he says.

Dan Julian and his wife, Mary, founded Julian's in 1998 with a philosophy of offering a "homey" alternative to chain restaurants.

Located in an unassuming storefront on Pioneer Street, Julian's serves breakfast and lunch to customers that are—more often than not—on a first-name basis with their servers.

"I'd say about 80 percent of our business is from repeat customers," says Julian, who serves as head cook. "We keep our prices low and use fresh ingredients in all our meals." Julian's specialties include comfort foods such as clam chowder, chili and stuffed pepper soup—all made from scratch.

A self-described family man, Julian said he established his restaurant, in part, to be able to spend more time with his children. They help out with serving and cooking duties.

Although he says the Goodyear Heights neighborhood was a "little rough" when he first opened the restaurant, Julian says the area is currently on an upswing. As a business owner—and neighborhood resident—Julian says he is especially pleased with the city's efforts to upgrade streets, curbs, sidewalks, lighting and utilities. ©

Rescue!

Special firefighting team goes above and beyond in the truest sense

By Robert Sberna



Training on a high tower gives fire fighters a chance to experience the stress of a high-altitude rescue.

The odds are good that you'll never find yourself trapped atop a 350-foot-high communication tower or buried in a building collapse or a construction site cave-in. But if such a misfortune befalls you or a loved one, you'll be relieved to know that the Akron Fire Department's Technical Rescue Operations Team (TROT) is "on the job."

Established in 1995, the 30-member team is trained and equipped for a wide range of specialized rescue situations. Along with rescues from confined spaces such as silos and sewers, TROT members are called on to perform rescues from excavation trenches and other below-grade scenarios. The team is also skilled in executing high-angle rope rescues from elevated structures such as bridges, towers, and tall buildings.

"The Akron Fire Department (AFD) has ladder trucks that can reach up to 100 feet," says Lt. Joe Natko, who leads the TROT

unit. "For anything beyond that, we come into play."

Natko's team consists of firefighters who have volunteered for TROT service. "The technical rescue work is above and beyond their regular firefighter duties," he explains. "After they are selected for TROT, they undergo about one year of training to learn the various aspects of rescue work."

When screening prospective TROT members, Natko says he looks for individuals who possess self-discipline and self-motivation. And, of course, courage is essential.

"You have to be willing to climb a communication tower that may be as high as 500 feet. This job is not for the faint of heart. If a painter is stranded on top of a water tower or kids are playing around on a high-level bridge and get stuck, you have to be able to go up there and control yourself in that situation. It's up to us to get the job done. If we can't do it, who are we going to call?"

Because of TROT's demanding training regimen, Natko says he and his fellow officers find out very quickly if someone

The risky nature of rescue work has inspired a strong sense of camaraderie and unity among team members. "When you're up in a high place, you have to be able to trust your team members," Natko says.

victim out of approximately 25 tons of coal, while building temporary walls to keep coal from collapsing back on him.

Saying the successful rescue took a little more than four hours, Moorhead commends

TROT members for their "superb" work. He adds that Goodyear's emergency services fire department has a longstanding relationship with the Akron Fire Department. "Several years ago, Goodyear donated and equipped the area's first hazardous materials response vehicle and an incident command truck for use at large-scale emergencies," Moorhead



TROT team members include (front row, left to right) Greg Conley, Mike Angerstien, Joe Shumaker; (back row, left to right): John Beavers, Bill Hailey, Joe Natko, David Taylor, Terry Wright



Goodyear CEO Bob Keegan expressed the company's gratitude to Mayor Plusquellic for the TROT team.

is truly TROT-caliber. "It doesn't take long for us to get to know a person's capabilities," he says.

Although much of TROT's work is performed at altitudes that would induce knee quivering in most of us, a fear of heights is not always a showstopper for prospective team members. "If someone doesn't like high places, but he's good at setting up ground systems, we can use that person," Natko says. "What's important is that a person has a no-quit attitude and is willing to work until the job is done."

"Because we live, work, and go on rescue calls with each other, we've developed a close bond."

To ensure that TROT personnel are knowledgeable about the most current rescue techniques and equipment, Natko and other team officers attend frequent training schools. To hone their skills, the team practices high-angle rope rescues on area water towers and bridges.

"And the city water department will dig trenches for us whenever we want to practice below-grade rescues," he adds.

To simulate confined spaces rescues, TROT utilizes the facilities of several Akron corporations, including Goodyear Tire & Rubber Co., Lockheed Martin, and A. Schulman Inc.


This past summer, several facets of TROT's expertise were tested when the team responded to an entrapment rescue in a huge coal bunker at a Goodyear powerhouse. According to Mark Moorhead, chief of Goodyear's fire department, the technical rescue team worked furiously to dig the

says. On many occasions, Goodyear's specialized firefighting foam engine has been used on fires in Akron.

Larry Bunner, deputy chief of the Akron Fire Department, says the key to TROT's effectiveness is the team's extensive training.

"These guys train constantly," says Bunner. "Because of their specialized duties, it's especially important for rescue team members to keep their skills sharpened so that they can be of service to the citizens of Akron and the county as a whole."

Akron's TROT is a participant in the Summit County technical rescue team. Natko notes that the Summit County TROT is one of only five rescue teams in Ohio that has been selected for inclusion in a statewide strike squad.

Quick to credit his team members' work ethic and expertise, Natko says: "These guys make me who I am. We have a great team with a lot of talent. I would say that their skill level is equaled by very few rescue teams in Ohio." 

This is A



Bagpiper Duane Dickson opens the city's somber 9-11 memorial to a noontime crowd at St. Bernard's Church. Leslie Parker-Barnes leads Summit Choral Society with her powerful gospel voice.



Students at Margaret Park School are thrilled to get coaching from Akron's own LeBron James, who brought NIKE to town, along with teacher training and equipment to 23 schools. The Cavs star will refurbish five basketball courts at Akron parks and community centers as well.



Twenty-five community representatives exchange ideas at Akron's Housing Forum, held at the Firestone Park Community Center in September. Mayor Don Plusquellic unveiled an initiative that would see 400 new homes built by private developers, the city and non-profit agencies over the next 5 years, as well as 600 homes rehabilitated in the same period.



Mike Blakemore of Akron Metropolitan Housing and Realtor Barbara Snyder pose questions to housing experts.



Scott Syphax, president of California's Nehemiah Corporation, offers up to \$5.5 million in loans below prime rate to build new housing.

AKRON

Photos by Bruce Ford



Labor Day Weekend at Lock 3 Park: The First Akron District Marbles Tournament sponsored by American Toy Marble Museum. Director Michael Cohill (top right) offers instructions and encouragement to dozens of participants. Boys winner Joe Spinhirny (center, left). Girls winner Whitney Lopic "knuckles down" (right).



Mayor Plusquellic presented the annual Take Pride in Akron awards to 15 recipients at Akron Zoo's Lehner Gardens, also a winner. City arborist Bill Hahn and volunteer Rosemary Reymann accept congratulations for Akron's first-place showing in *America In Bloom* contest.



ER AKRON MARATHON START



TIME WARN
CABLE

FirstEnergy

RUNNING
TIMES



After the Roadrunners completed their day, comedian Jay Leno headlined the FirstEnergy Victory Concert at the Akron Civic Theatre.



On Your Mark!

Roadrunner Marathon Proves To Be a Race for Everyone

Running is not often viewed as a spectator sport, but don't tell that to the thousands of greater Akron residents who poured onto the streets of the city Oct. 12 to watch the Roadrunner Akron Marathon.

From the starting line at the Lockheed-Martin Airdock in south-east Akron to the finish line at Canal Park downtown, hundreds of volunteers handed out water, offered assistance with security and staffed the marathon organization.

But even those without an assigned task did what came naturally – they sat on their porches or stood by the curb and cheered the runners passing by on the 26-mile route.


The first marathon was labeled a great success – by organizer Steven Marks, by Mayor Don Plusquellic and by dozens and dozens of runners from around North America who left Akron with a promise to return in 2004. The inaugural marathon attracted 3,600 participants – 2,600 in the marathon as solo or team runners, and 1,000 children took place in the companion Childrens Fun Run in downtown Akon.

The winning time went to one of the four male runners from Kenya, Jonah Rono, who trains in Englewood Colo. His winning time was 2 hours, 21 minutes and 59 seconds. The top female runner was Brenda L. Bowden of Hiram, who came in at 3 hours, 13 minutes, and 21 seconds.

The 2004 Roadrunner Akron Marathon will be Saturday, Oct. 2. 




Remembering the Men and Women of the United Rubber Workers Union and their Families

The city of Akron, together with Summacare Health Plan, The Rubber and Plastics division of the United Steelworkers Union, Signet Development Group, and the Summit County Historical Society are developing a United Rubber Workers Commemorative Garden at the site of the Portage Hotel where the URW was founded Sept. 12, 1935. Families may purchase an engraved paving brick, suitably inscribed with the name of the URW member to commemorate the loved one's service in the international union. Information is available through the Summit County Historical Society, (330) 535-1120 or it is available at www.ci.akron.oh.us. 



Homeland Security Secretary Invites Akron's Mayor to Share Concerns

Secretary Tom Ridge talks with Mayor Plusquellic, Vice-President of the U.S. Conference of Mayors, at a gathering for municipal leaders in New York this Fall. Akron's mayor has been an outspoken advocate for direct funding from federal government to cities to manage new terrorism threats. 

History

Giants of the Sky

Our love affair with airships

By Dave Lieberth

One day in 1990, TV icon Hugh Downs—from ABC's *20/20* and the original NBC *Today* program—stood in a vacant lot on East Market Street, across from Crosby School on West Hill.

"Right, here?" he asked, as I verified the address of his birthplace from a yellowed copy of the *Beacon Journal*.

"Right here," I confirmed.

His parents' home once stood where an office supply company now parks trucks.

Hugh Downs—TV star, world traveler, adventurer and accomplished pilot—had never ventured back to the place where he was born until he was invited to host the first induction ceremonies of the National Inventors Hall of Fame. What did he remember about Akron, the town he had left as a child?

"I remember standing on the back porch of my parents' house, and seeing this giant airship in the sky. That's what I remember about Akron."

The airship that Hugh Downs saw from West Hill was probably one of two giant dirigibles that visited Akron in August 1929—the *Graf Zeppelin* from Germany, or the *Los Angeles*, both of which visited Akron on the same day on their way to the Cleveland air races.

But Hugh Downs is not alone in holding a cherished memory of a giant dirigible in his mind's eye. So do hundreds of Akronites over the age of 75.

On August 8, 1931, a crowd of 250,000 Akron area residents jammed Fulton Field to see the christening of the mighty *USS Akron*. With the companion airship, the *USS Macon* (1933), Akron was firmly positioned as the world capital of lighter-than-air craft.

Akron's historic place in aeronautics research can be seen even today as you climb Triplett Boulevard to the west—the Thomastown headquarters of the Daniel

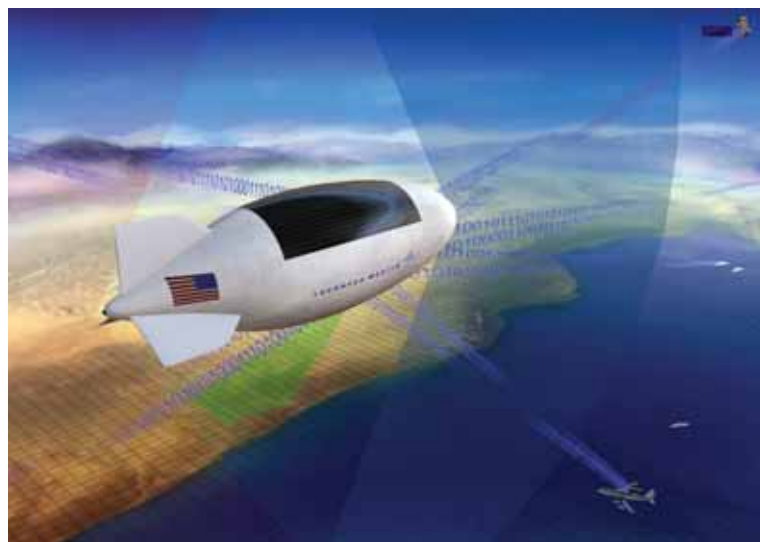


Akron's wondrous air-dock will again be used as building site for a new generation of High Altitude Airships by Lockheed Martin in 2004 (below). Once the largest building in the world without interior supports, Goodyear constructed the facility in 1930 to build Navy Airships.


Guggenheim Airship Institute, which opened in 1926. The institute came to be thanks to a gift from a New York City philanthropist (who funded the famous museum by the same name) and thanks to a vote by Akron citizens, who agreed to spend \$100,000 for airship research.

Even though the airships *Akron* and *Macon* shared disastrous fates, the love of lighter-than-air ships is alive and well in Akron. That's in no small part to the ever-present Goodyear blimp. Credit also belongs to Lockheed Martin, which in late September received a \$40 million design contract for the next generation of Akron aeronautical wonders—the High Altitude Airship.

The new airship will be 25 times the size of the Goodyear blimp, and if the Missile Defense Agency approves the initial design plan next year, will be constructed at the Airdock in South Akron.



The city of Akron, Summit County, and the Port Authority of Summit County are important development partners in the project that may generate hundreds of new jobs in the community.

At the news conference announcing the new high-tech model, Mayor Don Plusquellic predicted that when the High Altitude Airship rolls out of the Airdock in 2006, another generation of fans—maybe another 250,000 people—will gather to christen the next century of airship design. 

Walking Among Guardian Angels

By Russ Musarra / Illustration by Chuck Ayers

Her wings were clipped and part of her uplifted right arm was missing, as was her left hand. But the rest of the guardian angel was intact, peacefully staring down from the Wesener family monument on a hill in Glendale Cemetery.

Nearby, artist Chuck Ayers was focused on another stone figure, that of a woman kneeling in prayer atop the Dunn family monument, which stands against a background of gravestones and, beyond them, the downtown Akron skyline, the YMCA Building, Children's Hospital Medical Center and the Recycle Energy plant.

But we hadn't come to study the statuary. We were there to refresh our perspective on an Akron treasure, the cemetery itself. During nearly 14 years of writing about our walks around the community for the *Akron Beacon Journal*, we visited Glendale three times.

Each visit was a reminder that a walk around Glendale Cemetery is a continuing education course in local history. This final resting place of many of Akron's first families is filled with gravestones, monuments and mausoleums bearing names that also grace many city streets and buildings, such as Bartges, Buchtel, Crouse, Saalfeld, Sherbondy and Spicer.

But it took this fourth visit and a conversation with John Conti, the cemetery's general manager, to discover that Glendale was added to the National Register of Historic Places in September 2000, and that the cemetery's story is gloriously told in a new four-color brochure titled *An Historic Akron Landscape*.

Glendale was established as the Akron Rural Cemetery on what was the western edge of town in 1839. Fourteen years after, Akron came into being. On March 18, 2004, Glendale will celebrate its 165th anniversary.


In our previous visits we learned that the Cemetery Lodge near the entrance was built

in 1869 with a \$20,000 from the Ladies Cemetery Association, and that the Civil War memorial chapel was built in 1875 and 1876 with \$10,000 raised by community leaders John R. Buchtel, Col. Simon Perkins and George W. Crouse and a \$25,000 gift from Buckley Post No. 12 of the Grand Army of the Republic.

The chapel has been the scene of Memorial Day services most years since it was completed. Two exceptions were 1978, when repairs were being made after a sewer explosion, and during the two-year renova-

tion that began in 1999 and was still underway when Ayers and I visited in the fall of 2000.

Surprisingly, Glendale is as contemporary as it is historic. Conti says that there were 180 new burials last year and that Glendale is far from full. The gates are open from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday.

The chapel, in which the Civil War veterans' names are inscribed on 14 marble tablets, can be seen by appointment. Call 330-253-2317. 



Business

Meter Beater

High-tech Water Gauges

By Mark Williamson

Within two years, Akron residents will be done dancing with the meter reader. For nearly as long as city water systems have been around, so has the low-efficiency, door-to-door method of gauging how much customers have used and billing them for it. The new method means no one will enter your home, you will no longer have to go into your basement to read your own meter and you will never again receive an estimated bill.

Beginning in September, crews of plumbers

"This means everyone will now receive an accurate monthly bill rather than an estimated one."

began, one by one, going inside Akron homes to remove old water meters and install new, high-tech ones. In two years, they will have converted 93,000 homes to the new system that will allow meters to be read from a vehicle as it travels down your street. Once the entire city is upgraded, it will take one meter reader two weeks to collect the readings. The job currently takes three months for 18 readers to perform.

Each customer is notified well in advance by mail of the pending installation. The customer is asked to call the certified installers to make an appointment to get the work done.

Rick Forsythe, engineering project coordinator for the city of Akron said, "This means everyone will now receive an accurate monthly bill rather than an estimated one. And there is no rate increase or extra charge to the customer."

Eighteen meter readers currently on the



Honeywell's Steve Smith demonstrates installation of smaller, digital meter and transmitter at mayor's news conference.



Rick Forsythe, on behalf of the Water Meter Team, answers reporters' questions at the news conference announcing the \$15 million project.

job will be retrained in other jobs within the city, or be furloughed when their temporary contracts end.

The project began in Firestone Park. More than 150 meters are being done each day by Honeywell DMC, which has hired installers from the ranks of Plumbers and Pipe fitters Local 219. By the Summer of 2004, when crews can work longer days, the goal of installers will be nearly 300 meters daily.

Once the automatic meter reading (AMR) system is installed, meter readers will use



A hand-held radio receiver picks up the meter's radio signal outside of the home.

vehicles equipped with computers and radio frequency transceivers to collect meter data simply by driving past the metered property.

Akron is the fifth largest public water utility in Ohio and provides drinking water to almost 300,000 residents of Summit County. The \$15.3 million project area includes all of Akron, Mogadore and Fairlawn, plus portions of Cuyahoga Falls, Bath, Springfield, Copley and Coventry townships. ☐



The Town Crier

by Russ Musarra

If only the late KENNETH NICHOLS, Akron's original Town Crier, could see his city now. The man who delighted in roaming "restaurant row" for the *Beacon Journal* would be celebrating eight recent additions to the eat beat, proving Downtown is alive and well.

"It's becoming the destination point for entertainment and dining that we've worked on for many years," says Downtown Coordinator NANCY CSONKA.

Among these new downtown destinations is *Bricco*, where you can dine from lunchtime through midnight weekdays and until 1 a.m. on weekends, and about which owner DAVID GLENNY says, "Business is terrific."

A few doors to the west on Exchange is *Posh*, a restaurant and nightclub, a little bit of Las Vegas in the middle of Akron. Posh owner JEFF LORENZO says his goal was to create "the most attractive place in Akron to relax and have dinner."

Directly across Exchange at the southwest corner of Main and Exchange streets is *Fuel*, where owner SCOTT E. PALMER hopes people will come to "fuel the mind, body and soul" with fine food and drink, music ranging from jazz to opera and celebrations of the spoken word.

TRACY ROADARMEL named his new Akron restaurant *Jacob Good* after the 19th Century Akronite who built the Hermes Building on East Market Street just east of Main. Roadarmel wants to run "the best restaurant south of Cleveland," and, considering the high praise his other eatery, *Peter Shear's*, has been getting in Canton, he must be on to something.

Just east at 115 East Market, is *Evolution Revolution*, where dancing and parties can be enjoyed every night except Tuesday and Wednesday, says co-owner KLAUS, whose floristry, *Wildflower*, is below. Klaus and partner TOD WARREN hope to make their club an after-theater, after-anything destination.

Coffee is always ready at *Bru's Brew* on South Main, midway between Exchange and Cedar streets. Owner is SCOTT BREWER,

whom regulars know from *Brubaker's* just across the street.

If ribs are what you're looking for, *Louie's Lounge* offers them and dancing, too, in a casual, picnic atmosphere at 271 South Main, the former TeaHouse Inn. TIM ROOT is the proprietor.

Finally, brothers CHRISTOPHER and MICHAEL VERICH will be serving Cardinal Ale and other award-winning specialty beers at their *Ohio Brewing Company* in the O'Neil's Building by the start of the Akron Aeros' new season next door at Canal Park.

EMPLOYEES OF THE MONTH

The Town Crier tips his hat to August honoree SUSAN MILLER, a 25-year



employee whose performance as secretary to the Chief of Police is described as "exemplary." Miller also organizes and coordinates promotional receptions, FOP functions and the annual Police

Memorial Service. Her work with the Ohio Organized Crime Investigation Task Force earned her praise from Attorney General BETTY MONTGOMERY. For fun, Miller enjoys hiking with her daughter VALERIE.

MIKE HUDIK, September's honoree, is survey projects supervisor in the Service Department's Engineering Bureau and takes an active role in fieldwork, such as the day in 1995, when he and a crewmember removed a fallen tree from Akron-Peninsula Road to keep traffic flowing.



The 28-year employee also fulfills requests from Economic Development, Planning and the Law Department. Hudik, the father of three children, loves sports, especially golf, and has coached youth baseball, softball, basketball and soccer for 14 years.

November honoree KAREN HAGUE joined the Recreation Bureau as a part-time clerk typist in 1988 and became a full-time secretary in




1991. Her duties include processing requisitions, filing records, receiving deliveries, assisting visitors and answering the phone, all done, her co-workers say, with enthusiasm and genuine concern

for people and the department. In short, she is instrumental in keeping the office running smoothly. Hague and STEVE, her husband of 32 years, live in the Ellet area. Her passions are gardening, cooking, and spending time with her family - daughters KIM, RENEE and MICHELLE and grandson JARED.

MARI GOWER, also a November honoree, coordinates the payroll for the Recreation Bureau, where she has been a secretary since



1987. Her other duties include assisting with contracts and directing pays, bank deposits and travel. Gower began her career with the city of Akron in the Tax Division in 1974. Gower and her husband,

CARL, have three children, BRANDON, ANDY and TIFFANY. 



Akron City

A jubilant Akron Aeros team celebrates its 11-4 victory over New Haven at Canal Park on Sept. 12. The win earned the AA affiliate of the Cleveland Indians the Eastern League Championship crown. The city plans to officially celebrate the championship as part of the 2004 season-opener April 4 when the Aeros meet the Reading Phillies at the Canal Park.

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